



USDA/NASS
New Mexico Field Office

Weekly Ag Update

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Issue 55-49

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE - NOVEMBER 28, 2005

Crop Weather Cattle on Feed Farm Labor

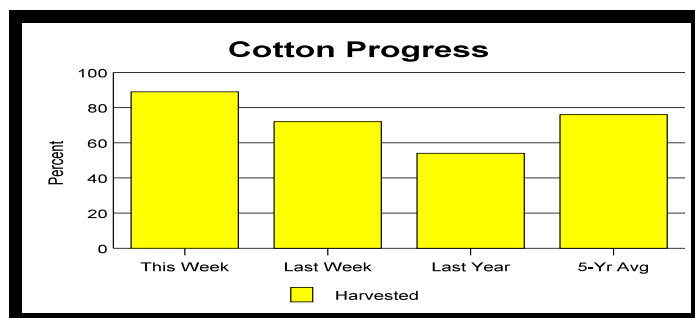
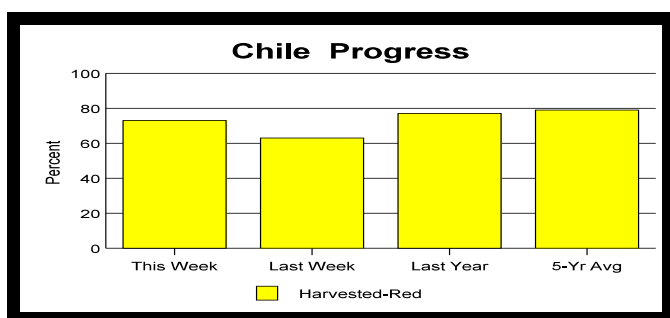
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CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 27, 2005

NEW MEXICO: There were 6.1 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was 27% very short, 40% short and 33% adequate. Wind damage was 10% light, 30% moderate and 3% severe. Freeze damage was 33% light, 12% moderate and 5% severe. Hail damage was 12% severe. Temperatures continued to drop and pecan harvest has started. Alfalfa was in fair to excellent condition, with 93% of the 7th cutting complete. Cotton was 89% harvested. Sorghum was in mostly poor to good condition, with 67% harvested for grain. Wheat was in mostly very poor to good condition. Lettuce harvest was completed. Red chile was 73% harvested. Fall onions were in fair to excellent condition. Pecans were in fair to excellent condition, with 7% harvested. Supplemental feeding is increasing and ranchers began purchasing feed and hay for the winter months. Cattle conditions were 1% very poor, 13% poor, 29% fair, 35% good and 22% excellent. Sheep were listed as 6% very poor, 25% poor, 30% fair, 18% good and 21% excellent. Range and pasture conditions were reported as 7% very poor, 28% poor, 29% fair, 29% good and 7% excellent.

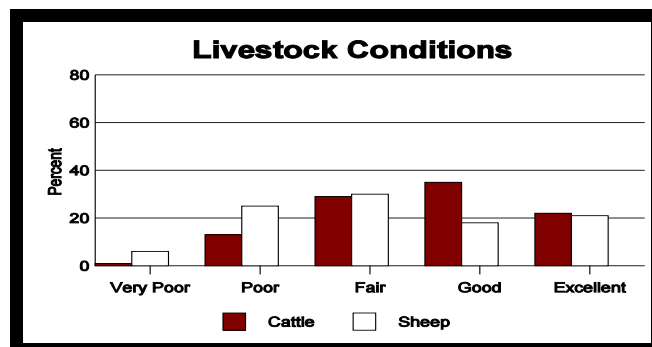
CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CHILE	Harvested-Red	73	63	77	79
COTTON	Harvested	89	72	54	76
LETTUCE	Harvested	100	93	99	100
SORGHUM	Harvested	67	37	58	71



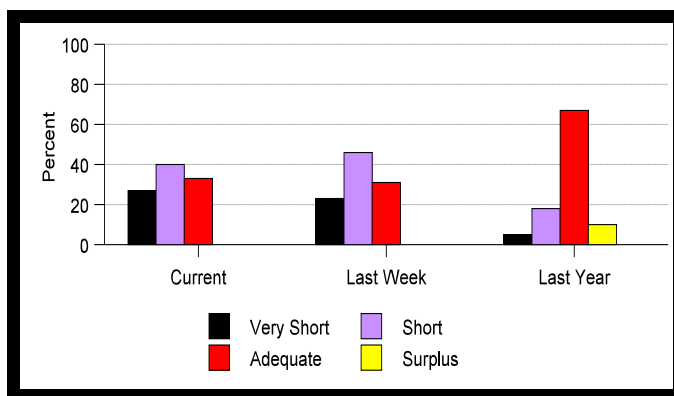
CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	--	--	23	44	33
Onions	--	--	8	55	37
Pecan	--	--	33	29	38
Sorghum (All)	--	24	28	47	1
Wheat (All)	13	41	29	11	6
Cattle	1	13	29	35	22
Sheep	6	25	30	18	21
Range/Pasture	7	28	29	29	7



SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	25	55	20	--
Northeast	34	37	29	--
Southwest	23	37	40	--
Southeast	22	37	41	--
State Current	27	40	33	--
State-Last Week	23	46	31	--
State-Last Year	5	18	67	10
State-5-Yr Avg.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



WEATHER SUMMARY

Most of the week was warm and dry, but much colder air spread across New Mexico over the weekend. Winds gusted to over 50 mph at many locations with this storm system. Some light snow and rain accompanied the storm, but Capulin/Des Moines (.35") and Red River (.25") were the only spots that managed to collect as much as a quarter inch of moisture. Most of southern New Mexico saw only a few flurries or sprinkles.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS - NOVEMBER 21 - 27, 2005

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	11/21 11/27	11/01 11/27	Normal Nov.	01/01 11/27	Normal Jan-Nov
Farmington	37.1	57	16	0.01	0.02	0.94	8.54	8.12
Gallup	33.4	62	7	0.11	0.12	0.95	11.27	11.91
Capulin	35.4	63	11	0.35	0.40	0.67	17.84	16.94
Chama	35.1	60	13	0.04	0.12	1.72	25.33	19.81
Johnson Ranch	33.1	59	10	0.00	0.00	0.69	9.76	10.85
Las Vegas	40.5	64	19	0.00	0.00	0.58	18.99	18.36
Los Alamos	41.9	57	24	0.00	0.07	1.02	21.17	17.64
Raton	38.7	67	12	0.03	0.05	0.61	20.09	16.22
Red River	28.4	53	9	0.25	0.66	1.18	24.81	19.33
Santa Fe	37.6	62	17	0.01	0.01	0.63	14.05	13.21
Clayton	45.9	70	26	0.16	0.16	0.52	17.19	14.80
Clovis	49.6	73	27	0.00	0.00	0.73	17.42	16.97
Roy	42.2	67	19	0.03	0.03	0.50	18.86	15.29
Tucumcari	47.9	71	21	0.05	0.05	0.51	20.78	13.90
Grants	35.0	64	11	0.20	0.20	0.58	8.80	10.14
Quemado	34.7	64	11	0.14	0.14	0.45	12.64	13.04
Albuquerque	43.6	61	27	0.00	0.00	0.43	11.32	8.38
Carrizozo	44.2	66	19	0.00	0.00	0.76	14.71	12.07
Socorro	43.4	65	17	0.00	0.00	0.47	8.29	8.95
Gran Quivera	43.5	65	19	0.00	0.00	0.91	18.69	14.92
Moriarty	35.4	63	12	0.00	0.00	0.40	11.53	12.17
Ruidoso	41.4	64	19	0.00	0.00	0.88	20.47	19.72
Carlsbad	55.0	78	31	0.00	0.00	0.59	8.90	12.38
Roswell	47.4	73	23	0.01	0.01	0.55	11.43	12.38
Tatum	48.1	73	20	0.00	0.00	0.55	12.03	15.57
Alamogordo	53.9	69	35	0.00	0.00	0.71	12.22	11.92
Animas	51.8	71	30	0.00	0.00	0.71	10.80	10.62
Deming	50.4	73	24	0.00	0.00	0.64	8.09	9.73
Las Cruces	46.9	74	30	0.00	0.00	0.53	10.86	8.72
T or C	48.4	70	29	0.00	0.00	0.60	9.10	9.22

(T) Trace (-) No Report (*) Correction

All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from official observation forms.

CATTLE ON FEED

NEW MEXICO: Cattle and Calves on feed intended for the slaughter market in New Mexico feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 141,000 head on November 1, 2005. Placements totaled 22,000 head during the month of October, down from September's 26,000 head. Marketings were down to 16,000 head, and Other Disappearances totaled 1,000 head.

UNITED STATES: Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.5 million head on November 1, 2005. Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.80 million, 3 percent above 2004 and 1 percent above 2003. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.74 million, 3 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003. Other disappearance totaled 58,000 during October, 12 percent below 2004 and 43 percent below 2003.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots ^{1/}												
	Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappearance ^{2/}		
	11/1/04	10/1/05	11/1/05	-----DURING-----								
				10/04	9/05	10/05	10/04	9/05	10/05	10/04	9/05	10/05
	-----1,000 Head-----											
AZ	321	318	325	48	29	35	21	24	27	4	1	1
CA	525	535	545	70	68	64	59	57	50	6	6	4
CO	1,090	900	1,030	260	280	290	185	145	155	5	5	5
ID	305	270	290	78	69	76	47	48	55	1	1	1
IA	430	410	475	125	90	131	68	74	65	2	1	1
KS	2,400	2,250	2,410	570	510	580	375	455	400	15	15	20
NE	2,210	1,940	2,280	600	500	660	325	320	310	5	10	10
NM	134	136	141	29	26	22	29	22	16	2	3	1
OK	360	335	360	87	69	79	64	53	53	3	1	1
SD	169	130	161	65	40	68	38	40	35	1	2	2
TX	2,880	2,830	2,970	650	550	670	520	510	520	20	10	10
WA	185	153	163	43	40	34	37	25	23	1	1	1
Oth Sts	325	275	325	76	84	86	35	43	35	1	1	1
US	11,334	10,482	11,475	2,701	2,355	2,795	1,803	1,816	1,744	66	57	58

^{1/} Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. ^{2/} Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

QUARTERLY FARM LABOR

NEW MEXICO-ARIZONA: There were 25,000 hired workers on farms and ranches in New Mexico and Arizona during the week of October 9th - 15th, 2005, up 8.7 percent from a year ago. Hours worked increased 1.8 percent to an average of 44.8 hours per worker. Average wage rates for all hired workers were up by 53 cents from last year to \$8.28 an hour. Wage rates for New Mexico and Arizona remain below the national average of \$9.61 an hour.

UNITED STATES: There were 1,129,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2005, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 840,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 289,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.61 per hour during the October 2005 reference week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.90 per hour, up 28 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.14 per hour compared with \$8.91 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.96 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year.

**Workers on Farms, Hours worked Per Week, and Wage Rates for All Hired Workers,
 Selected Regions and U.S., October 2004-2005 ^{1/}**

	Mountain II ^{2/}		Mountain III ^{3/}		Southern Plains ^{4/}		United States ^{5/}	
	Oct 10-16 2004	Oct 9-15 2005	Oct 10-16 2004	Oct 9-15 2005	Oct 10-16 2004	Oct 9-15 2005	Oct 10-16 2004	Oct 9-15 2005
Workers on Farms	-----Thousands-----							
All Hired Workers	19	22	23	25	44	64	851	840
Hours Worked	-----Hours Per Week-----							
All Hired Workers	41.6	45.9	44.0	44.8	40.3	39.1	40.5	42.0
Wages By Work Type	-----Dollars Per Hour-----							
Field	8.32	7.94	7.03	7.27	8.44	7.60	8.62	8.90
Livestock	8.95	8.39	8.04	8.87	8.68	7.84	8.91	9.14
Field & Livestock	8.56	8.14	7.36	7.67	8.53	7.68	8.69	8.96
All Workers	9.40	8.75	7.75	8.28	9.34	8.38	9.32	9.61

^{1/} Excludes agricultural service workers. ^{2/} Mountain Region II consists of CO, NV & UT. ^{3/} Mountain Region III consists of AZ & NM. ^{4/} Southern Plains region consists of OK & TX. ^{5/} Excludes AK.